Impact of rising petrol price on national economy

†1600. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawan towards the increasing price of petrol in the international market; and

(b) if so, the alternative steps being taken by Government with regard to the effect of price rise on the economic growth of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) and (b) The Global prices of crude oil and petroleum products have remained high and volatile since 2004 with the Indian Basket of crude oil having reached its all time high of $ 92.13/barrel on 26.11.2007. The impact of volatile and sharp increase in international oil prices needs to be reflected in the domestic retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products. However, to protect the interests of common man and vulnerable sections of society the burden of high international oil prices is being shared by the oil PSUs and the Government. The Government has also taken a number of measures to rationalise taxes and duties on crude and sensitive petroleum products. The Prices of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG have remained unchanged over the last three years and there has been no increase in prices of petrol and diesel during the current year.

Scarcity of LPG cylinders in Delhi

1601. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there had been an acute shortage of LPG cylinders during the months of September and October, 2007 in the Capital, especially in South Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that LPG cylinders were available in the black market at the rate of Rs 600 to 800 as against its actual cost of Rs. 300; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for scarcity of LPG in Delhi during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) No, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any shortage of LPG cylinders in Delhi during the months of September and October, 2007 and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the requirement of customers registered with the LPG distributors in Delhi.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the possibility of diversion/black marketing of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscruplous elements cannot be ruled out due to the huge difference in the price of subsidized and non-subsidized LPG.

Issue of bonds to corporate oil marketing companies

1602. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has already issued bonds worth Rs. 40,000 crore during the last two years to compensate the oil marketing companies which are reeling under the burden of increase cost of crude oil in the international markets and also how contemplating for new bond issue for similar purposes;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi